



CALIFORNIA INTEGRATED WATER QUALITY SYSTEM

...an integrated approach

What is the California Integrated Water Quality System, or CIWQS?

The California Water Boards have a new computer database that combines discharger and environmental reporting data for the range of responsibilities the Water Boards are required to manage.

The new database is called the California Integrated Water Quality System, or CIWQS. Launched in July 2005, this computer system allows us to efficiently and effectively carry out regulatory and permitting functions, merge data between programs, and improve public access to information.

How CIWQS Works

CIWQS operates through communication and decision-making with several work groups to:

- Standardize coding National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit limits and monitoring requirements.
- Inform NPDES dischargers and Board staff on how to use CIWQS.
- Compile and maintain violations, inspections, enforcement actions.
- Design and develop custom reports for the Water Boards and the public.
- Gather and merge data statewide compliance data to the U.S. EPA's Permit Compliance System.
- Streamline and simplify data gathering and comprehension.

Monthly Status Reports

This is the first monthly status report about CIWQS. The reports are available by CIWQS List Serve available on the State Board's Web site at <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/ciwqs/index.html> and is available on the CIWQS intranet site at: <http://waternet.epanet.ca.gov/oit/ciwqs/index.html>

The monthly reports track progress made toward meeting the Water Boards' goals to:

- Train the NPDES dischargers with transmitting their monthly self-monitoring reports electronically.
- Transfer NPDES permit, inspection, violation and enforcement actions, compliance, pipe schedule, and parameter limits to U.S. EPA's Permit Compliance System by December 31, 2006 for dischargers submitting monthly electronic Self Monitoring Reports (eSMRs).
- Assist Regional Boards completing the paper backlog into CIWQS by summer 2006.
- Train all state and regional board caseworker staff on data entry, running assessments of data, and generating reports by summer 2006.
- Increase the number and usefulness of reports generated by Water Boards staff and the public.

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SNAPSHOTS OF PROGRESS

Coded Individual NPDES Permits

In progress of being entered into CIWQS:

DISCHARGER ELECTRONIC SELF MONITORING REPORTS (eSMR) OUTREACH AND TRAINING

Which Dischargers Are Submitting eSMRs Monthly

Regional Boards Outreach and CIWQS Training

Regional Boards' Data Entry

Data from CIWQS to U.S. EPA'S Permit Compliance System

CIWQS Report Team

Business Rules Team

Water Quality Parameters/ Objectives Team

CIWQS Performance Improvement

New CIWQS Executive Team

Completed and New CIWQS Programs

- Improve the performance of CIWQS by tracking and resolving issues reported by users of the system.
- Improve the quality of information entered into CIWQS by quality assessments and develop a report to the CIWQS Executive Team.

SNAPSHOTS OF PROGRESS

Coded Individual NPDES Permits

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit limits and monitoring requirements entered into CIWQS and reviewed and approved by regional boards to date:

- North Coast Regional Board (12)
- Central Coast Regional Board (38)
- Colorado River Basin Regional Boards (26)
- Santa Ana (50)

Regional Boards In-progress of being entered into CIWQS:

- Los Angeles Regional Board
- Central Valley Regional Board
- Lahontan Regional Board
- San Diego Regional Board

Note: All permit limits must be reviewed and approved by Regional Boards before discharger training and eSMR submission. Coding of all Regional Boards (except San Francisco Regional Board) wastewater permit limits and monitoring requirements into CIWQS by January 2007. Requirement coding requires active NPDES permits so the schedule may be delayed.

DISCHARGER ELECTRONIC SELF MONITORING REPORTS (eSMR) OUTREACH AND TRAINING

Colorado River Basin Regional Board; 26 permits, 26 completed in March 2006. Training is continuing.

Santa Ana Regional Board; 39 permits, 14 completed in February 2006. Training is continuing.

Central Coast Regional Board; 30 permits,. The first set of active reports were submitted on May 15, 2006.

Los Angeles Regional Board; 160 permits, 20 began training in May 2006.

The second round of regional boards' data entry training is complete.

Note: There are delays in training some dischargers because of workload issues with some regional boards reviewing orders and loading NPDES permit limits. The outreach team has found that follow-up training and contact is crucial and continuing the training at the Regional Boards is required.

Which Dischargers Are Submitting eSMRs Monthly?

Colorado River Basin Board; 26 permits, 11 submitting monthly

Santa Ana Regional Board; 39 permits, 5 submitting monthly.

Central Coast Regional Board; 30 permits, 0 (first active reports are due in May 2006).

Regional Boards Outreach and CIWQS Training

The second round of Regional Boards data entry training is complete. The Santa Ana Regional Board and San Diego Regional Board declined training.

Note: More training will be provided to the Regional Boards using hard copy Discharger Monitoring Reports and Party Reconciliation.

Party reconciliation is a process that combines records when there are duplicates. For example, CIWQS contains a record for Robert Smith who is a contact for a wastewater permit for a facility. CIWQS also has a record for Robert Smith as the contact for a stormwater permit for the same facility. The party reconciliation feature allows these two records to combine into one so there will be one Robert Smith record that is the contact for two permits.

The Self Monitoring Reports tracking feature will be available in May 2006.

Regional Boards' Data Entry

The quantity of data entry performed by regional boards varies from regional board-to- regional board.

The State Water Board's Office of Information Technology has offered help to regional boards. Currently, we are working with the Central Valley Regional Board in Sacramento to complete entry of their NPDES violations hard copy backlog. We are also working with the Los Angeles Regional Board to enter 300 violations to complete their hard copy backlog. Once the Self-Monitoring Reports Receipt Tracking feature is applied in May 2006, we will work with all Regional Boards to enter the receipt of recorded Self-Monitoring Reports from July 2005.

Data from CIWQS to U.S. EPA'S Permit Compliance System

The Santa Ana Regional Board (10 facilities) and the Colorado River Basin Regional Board (26 facilities) were

uploaded to the U.S. EPA's Permit Compliance System on March 29, 2006. The data include Permit Facility, Permit Tracking, and Inspections.

We are working on North Coast Regional Board, Los Angeles Regional Board, Central Valley Regional Board and the San Diego Regional Board.

We are testing for uploading enforcement actions, enforcement for single event violations, compliance schedule, compliance schedule violation was completed on March 31, 2006.

Testing for uploading pipe schedule, parameter limits, measurement violation, re-issuance, enforcement and enforcement violations for measurement will be completed by December 31, 2006.

CIWQS Report Team

CIWQS Reports available to date include:

Enforcement Actions – includes enforcement actions (including historical data from SWIM, the old database, into CIWQS and enforcement actions in Geotracker. The search function provides reports for enforcement by Region/Program/Action. This report is available to State and Regional Boards from the Reports link in CIWQS.

Posting Tag Report – includes an accounting report that identifies account receivable information by order. This report is available to State and Regional Boards from the Reports link in CIWQS.

Oracle Discoverer Reports – includes custom reports for program caseworker and management assessments. These reports are available from the Water Boards' intranet. Contact Erin Mustain, the CIWQS Discoverer Report Coordinator, at emustain@waterboards.ca.gov

Enforcement Order Actions Report – includes a current listing of all enforcement actions with a link to an electronic copy of the corresponding order. This report is available to the public on the Water Boards' Web site at <http://ciwqs.waterboards.ca.gov/ciwqs/enforcementOrders.jsp>

The following custom reports are being developed:

- Violations – General & Detailed
- Milestones – General & Detailed
- Reporting Requirements – General & Detailed
- Administrative Civil Liability Posting Tag
- Facility at-a-glance
- Regulatory Measure at-a-glance

Priority reports that need to be developed, include:

- Active Orders (Waste Discharge Requirements/ NPDES)– General & Detailed
- Regulated Facilities – General & Detailed
- Enforcement Actions – General & Detailed
- Permits Due to Expire – General & Detailed
- Waste Discharge Requirements That Need To Be Reviewed – General & Detailed
- Application Tracking – General & Detailed
- Inspection Planner

Business Rules Team

Responsibilities:

- Review and prioritize CIWQS production issues that require fixing or enhancing
- Establish business rules
- Review and evaluate current business rules assigned from other programs
- Review and understand CIWQS screens
- Develop a User's Guide
- Update the CIWQS data dictionary
- Discuss other programs business rules needs

Business Rules Decisions made to-date include:

- Approved charter.
- Established business rules and defined drop down menu options for the Inspection module.
- Discussed and moving forward on format and content of new/modified CIWQS User's Guide.
- Prioritized violation issues and submitted two new task orders for the contractor to fix its function.
- Discussed new business rules and proposed enhancements for General Permits and enrollees.
- Discussed integration design of storm water annual report and sanitary sewer overflow program.

Water Quality Parameters/Objectives Team

The Division of Water Quality is leading the CIWQS effort to discuss water quality parameters and objectives across programs and determines how this data should be stored and used. With the new ambient surface and ground water monitoring program (SWAMP and GAMA) integration effort, the ambient water quality parameters need to be evaluated and decisions need to be made about their use.

CIWQS Performance Improvement

The Office of Information Technology and its contractors are meeting weekly to discuss alternatives for improving

CIWQS' performance of the database, application, and hardware. Several new fixes are proposed to improve the CIWQS application program code. The team is preparing an issue paper to describe the hardware upgrades needed to maintain and improve CIWQS performance. The results of the issue paper will be discussed with the CIWQS Executive Team for feedback and approval.

New CIWQS Executive Team

The Division of Water Quality Division Chief chairs the new CIWQS Executive Team. This executive team, comprised of State and Regional Water Boards executives, will discuss aspects of CIWQS.

Some of the issues that need immediate attention include:

- Developing a budget accounting process
- Developing Maintenance/support
- Training/outreach for data entry
- Training/outreach for discharger eSMR training
- Developing Quality Assurance/ Quality Control status report

Completed and New CIWQS Programs

- Geotracker Data Flow to CIWQS Phase I (case data facilities and reports) – Completed December 2005
- Geotracker Data Flow to CIWQS Phase II (monitoring data and reports) – Start date July 2006
- Storm Water Multi-Application Reporting and Tracking System (SMARTS) (Tracking of storm water general permit enrollees) – completed March 2006
- Sanitary Sewer Overflow –In May 2006, the Board approved the statewide Waste Discharge Requirements. The system is being rolled out to a subset of dischargers first, and according to permit schedule.
- Storm Water Annual Report Online Submission – expected June 2006.
- Ambient Surface and Ground Water Monitoring Data (SWAMP/GAMA) –expected October 2006
- National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit Standardization Tool – expected December 31, 2006
- National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Automated Inspection Tool– expected December 31, 2006

